

Friends of Henry Horton State Park Host Tree Planting Education Event for Chapel Hill Elementary School Students

Under bright sunshine, the Friends of Henry Horton State Park and Tennessee Environmental Council hosted a tree planting educational event on February 18 with fifth grade students from Chapel Hill Elementary School at Henry Horton State Park. The eager group of students was accompanied by teachers, park and golf course staff as they planted more than 200 native trees that will help reduce erosion along the banks of the Duck River at Henry Horton State Park.



Tennessee Environmental Council Executive Director John McFadden provided the students a variety of learning experiences throughout the actual tree planning activities. "This is your park, and it's great that you are here taking action to help it," said McFadden. "The trees you planted today will help improve the water quality along the Duck River as it flows through the park and continue growing to provide beauty, shade and enhanced habitat for years to come." State Sen. Bill Ketron also joined the students from Chapel Hill Elementary after they completed planting more than 200 Shumard Oaks and Tulip Poplar trees along the Duck River. Sen. Ketron mentioned he was an Eagle Scout as a youth and made very positive remarks about the importance for conservation, preservation of green spaces, and the need to keep our air and water clean.



State Sen. Bill Ketron joined the Friends of Henry Horton State Park as part of a tree planting educational event with fifth grade students and teachers from Chapel Hill Elementary School on February 18. Students planted 200 native trees to help reduce erosion along the banks of the Duck River.

The Duck River, a centerpiece of Henry Horton State Park, was recently recognized by [National Geographic](#) as one of the most biologically rich places in the world. The fifth graders will plant 100 Tulip Poplars, the state tree, and 100 Shumard Oaks to help reduce erosion and stabilize the area. Students and participants will also receive a free tree to bring home and plant. This event is part of the "Protecting Our Watershed" educational curriculum the students have been working on since the fall. The protecting our watershed's curriculum gives fifth grade students an opportunity to learn the importance of clean water to their community and takes students through a six-step process to evaluate a section of the Duck River running through Henry Horton State Park, to identify opportunities to improve the river's health, choose a specific project designed to address any opportunities or threats, and take concrete steps to address issues to improve the health of the river.



Tennessee State Park Middle TN Regional Manager Mike Robertson, State Sen. Bill Ketron, Friends of HHSP President Stacey Cothron, Friends of HHSP Vice-President Teresa Dugger.

This program offers prospects for learning in Science, Math, Social Studies/Civics, English, Computer Studies, and Art. During two days in the fall students conducted watershed assessments noting the need for stream side habitat improvements. Among other ideas the students suggested planting trees along the creek bank to increase habitat, filter sediment and prevent stream bank erosion. The event is an outgrowth of the student's watershed assessment and recommendations.

Friends of Henry Horton State Park is a 501(c)3 charitable non-profit [volunteer group](#) whose sole purpose is to enhance park offerings at HHSP in Chapel Hill and to educate the public about nature and conservation of our resources. The group was awarded the "2009 Tennessee Sustainability Award" by the Tennessee Environmental Council for their innovative and outstanding lead removal project in Henry Horton State Park.